

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for dispatching vehicles for pickup and delivery, using a computerized and at least partially automated system, the method comprising the steps of:

- receiving a telephone signal comprising an electronic indication in a calling signal of a location of a pickup site;
- automatically determining the pickup site based on the electronic indication;
- receiving ultimate destination information for a customer;
- contacting and identifying the vehicle available for effecting a pickup at the determined pickup site; ~~and~~
- issuing instructions to the vehicle to proceed to the determined pickup site and to deliver to the ultimate destination of the customer;__
- determining whether the customer has been picked up; and
- providing periodic status information to the customer based upon the determination.

2. (Original) The dispatching system of claim 1, wherein the vehicles being dispatched are selected from a group consisting of: taxis, limousines, ambulances, school buses, and trucks.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, comprising enabling customers at the pickup sites to interact with a central, at least partially automated, dispatching system through interactive voice communication.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, including enabling customers to communicate with a central dispatching system which handles calls to dispatched vehicles dispersed over many different cities and comprising many different operators of vehicle fleets.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including providing from the vehicles that are being dispatched, global positioning information and tracking the location of vehicles both prior to and en route to pickups.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further including repeated calculations of distance of the vehicle to the location of the pickup and communicating that information to the pickup location.

7. (Original) The method of the claim 6, further including calculating time of arrival at pickup sites.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further including calculating time of arrival based on stored traffic patterns and time of day criteria.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including providing monthly statements and account information to repeat customers electronically.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including using ANI and/or DNIS for determining customer locations.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising a lookup table for customers that is indexed based on customer's telephone numbers.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising customers communicating with a central dispatching system via voice communication with voice recognition and voice synthesis.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising communication between customers and a central dispatching system via customer held personal digital assistants.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising a central dispatching system communicating to customers pickup information and update information via electronic messages to customers' computers.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including providing to customers ancillary data about destination sites.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the ancillary data comprises entertainment information, accommodation information and/or transportation information.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising enabling customers to communicate via computers that have drop down menus providing a choice of options to potential customers, including type of car, trip rate calculations and cost information.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing to repeat customers a menu of a plurality of destination addresses for the customer to choose from.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1 including communicating with a central dispatching system that receives the telephone signal from the customer via the Internet, A method for dispatching vehicles for pickup and delivery, using a computerized system, the method comprising the steps of:~~

receiving, over the Internet, information related to a telephone number of a location of a pickup site and a telephone number of a destination site for a customer;

determining, by the computerized system, the locations of the pickup and destination sites by using the received information;

contacting and identifying a vehicle of the vehicles available for effecting a pickup at the determined pickup site;

issuing instructions to the identified vehicle to proceed to the determined pickup site and to deliver to the ultimate destination of the customer;

determining whether the customer has been picked up; and

providing periodic status information to the customer based upon the determination.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, including ~~playing to customers displaying, by the identified vehicle,~~ advertising messages.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
selecting a local operator based on the electronic indication; and
providing the customer with a greeting of the local operator,
wherein the electronic indication includes information related to DNIS and ANS protocols.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the greeting of the local operator includes a menu of options selectable by the customer.